

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5245

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, AR

SUBJECT: TRADE UNION ACTIVITIES

1. MILITARY JUNTA HAS NOT YET ENUNCIATED LABOR POLICY, NOR APPARENTLY HAS IT INITIATED DISCUSSIONS WITH LABOR LEADERSHIP. IN FACE LACK OF FORWARD MOTION, MANY LABOR LEADERS ARE PRIVATELY BEGINNING TO ADOPT ANTAGONISTIC ATTITUDE. HOWEVER, GIVEN STRICT CONTROL EXERCISED BY GOA, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT ANY OPPOSITIONIST ACTIVITIES WILL BE UNDERTAKEN WITHIN NEAR TIMEFRAME.

2. INFO ON MANY NATIONAL LEVEL LABOR LEADERS IS SKETCHY. LABOR CONTACTS REPORT THAT LORENZO MIGUEL (UOM), ROGELIO PAPAGNO (UOCRA) AND ALBERTO CAMPOS (UOM & CGT) ARE HELD ON NAVAL SHIP IN BUENOS AIRES HARBOR. CGT SUBSEC GEN ADALBERTO WIMER AND CGT BOARD MEMBER PEDRO ALVAREZ ARE IN HIDING. ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL ARREST LIST RELEASED, THEY UNDERSTAND THEY ARE ON SECRET ARREST LIST. ACCORDING INFO AVAILABLE LABATT, THEY DO NOT INTEND PRESENT THEMSELVES FOR ARREST UNTIL CHARGES AGAINST THEM ARE MADE PUBLIC AND THEY HAVE RECOURSE TO JUDICIAL PROCESSES. ON APRIL 7 MILITARY TRIBUNAL IN COMODORO RIVADAVIA SENTENCED SIX LOCAL LEVEL UNION LEADERS AND ONE MINLABOR FUNCTIONARY TO PRISON SENTENCES RANGING FROM THREE TO TEN YEARS FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION ARMS

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AND EXPLOSIVES.

3. DURING WEEK MINLABOR INTERVENED ADDITIONAL FIVE UNION, INCLUDING HIGHLY POLITICIZED PERONIST TEACHERS UNION (UDA). ON TWO OCCASIONS GROUP OF LABOR LEADERS, PRIMARILY FROM LESS IMPORTANT NATIONAL LEVEL UNIONS, ATTEMPTED ARRANGE MEETINGS WITH CGT INTERVENTOR FABRIZI AND MINLABOR LIENDO. HOWEVER, BOTH OFFICIALS REJECTED OVERTURES.

4. COMMENT: LABOR LEADERS WHO NEGOTIATED WITH MILITARY PRIOR TO COUP NOW DOUBT THAT JUNTA WILL HONOR AGREEMENTS. ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE NOT YET DECIDED ON THE COURSE OF ACTION TO FOLLOW, THEY EXPECT MILITARY INACTION OR MISTAKES MAY FORCE THEM TO SEEK OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE FROM INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS TO WHICH THEIR UNIONS ARE AFFILIATED.
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